

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace original paragraph [0071] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0071] In Figures 23 through 36 some exemplary embodiments are shown of a second kind of pallet, alternative to that shown in Figures 1 through 22, according to the invention. In this case the engagement of armature 110 by the support means is effected at ~~the shaft 110~~ 111 by means of a couple of supports 121 and 131 mounted on ~~the basis~~ base 2 of pallet 100.

Please replace original paragraph [0072] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0072] In particular, the supports 121 and 131 are capable of approaching and/or moving away from each other with respect to the axis 115 of armature 110 at the moment of receiving and/or releasing a portion of the shaft 111. More in detail, the support means 121 are movable along the axis 115 of armature 110 whereas the supports 131 are fixed, or alternatively, they can be arranged at a distance from the movable supports 121 but only in a preliminary step (Figure 23 through 26). For example, in the case shown in Figures 23 through 26 a rod 133 is provided mounted on ~~the basis~~ base 2 parallel to axis 115 of armature 110 on which a support arm 131 snap fits and is arranged at a predetermined distance from support 121.

Please replace original paragraph [0076] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0076] As shown in detail in Figure 32, at the moment of positioning armature 110 on pallet 100 the movable supports 131 are elastically forced to move away from supports 121 to allow the armature 110 to fit correctly. In other words the distance between the supports 121 and

131 is self-adjusted in order to adapt to the length of the shaft 111 of armature 110. More in detail, the distance between the supports 121 and 131 changes from a starting value l_1 to a value l_2 depending on the length of shaft 111 of armature 110 (Figure 33). Always with reference to Figure 33, the relative movement between the supports 121 and 131 can be made mounting the supports 131, or also the supports 121, on guides 175.

Please replace the original Abstract with the following replacement Abstract:

A pallet (1) for handling armatures (10) for electric motors on automatic production lines, having a shaft (12) on which an armature stack of ferromagnetic sheets (11) and a commutator (13) are driven. In particular, the pallet (1) comprises a base (2) on which support means members (5) are mounted for engaging with stack (11) of armature (10). The support means members allow to gripping means gripper (30) to pick it up armature (10) in a workstation. The pallet can receive armatures of a same family, with armature stack of diameter $D + \Delta$, with different shape and size and position of the shaft, or of the commutator, independently from whether the armature is wound or still to be wound. The armature can be picked up from below or above the pallet ~~pick-up of the armature from the pallet can be made either from the above or from below~~. Also embodiments are provided for engaging with the shaft of the armature.